

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

INFO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189061

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR,SK, BY,RW

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH KOREAN DIPLOMAT ON UNGA PROBLEM

1. WHILE IN DEPARTMENT ON CONSULTATION FROM BUJUMBURA, AMBASSADOR MARK HAD CONVERSATION JULY 28 WITH KOREAN EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY MIN HYUNG-KI ON LACK OF SERIOUS EFFORT IN PAST BY SEOUL TO COURT BURUNDI. MARK NOTED THAT NORTH KOREANS HAD INVESTED TIME AND MODEST SUMS OF MONEY IN BURUNDI FOR PAST FIVE YEARS, AND THAT, WITH EXCHANGE OF A NUMBER OF OFFICIAL VISITS, AND WITH NORTH KOREAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BURUNDI, PYONGYANG HAD GOTTEN SOLID BURUNDI SUPPORT FOR ITS INTERNATIONAL POSITION. MEANWHILE, SOUTH KOREA HAD MADE NO EFFORT TO COUNTERACT THIS TREND AND, INDEED, IN 1975, HAD ABANDONED  
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ITS PRESENCE IN KIGALI, WHEN THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAD

QUIT THE COUNTRY WITHOUT ADVANCE NOTICE AFTER THE NORTH KOREANS HAD BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN RWANDA.

2. MARK RECOUNTED TWO CONVERSATIONS ON KOREA WITHIN PAST YEAR WITH PRESIDENT MICOMBERO IN WHICH LATTER HAD NOTED THAT HE HAD NEVER SEEN A SOUTH KOREAN BUT THAT, IN SPITE OF BURUNDI ALIGNMENT WITH NORTH KOREA, HE WOULD BE GLAD TO RECIEVE ANY EMISSARY OF THE SOUTH FOR A TALK. MARK SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS TIME FOR SEOUL TO TEST MICOMBERO'S PROFESSED OPEN-MINDEDNESS. PERHAPS, A SENIOR FRENCH-SPEAKING SOUTH KOREAN DIPLOMAT, WHO WOULD PROBABLY BE VISITING KINSHASA SOON, COULD MAKE CALLS IN BUJUMBURA AND KIGALI. HE WOULD HAVE TO BE ABLE NOT ONLY TO PRESENT HIS CASE PERSUASIVELY AND MAKE SOUTH KOREA'S ACHIEVEMENTS KNOWN, BUT ALSO TO HINT THAT GREATER BURUNDIAN NEUTRALITY MIGHT LEAD TO A MATERIAL PAYOFF IN FORM OF SOME BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. AMERICAN EMBASSY IN BUJUMBURA WOULD BE GLAD TO TRY TO SET UP MEETING OF VISITOR WITH MICOMBERO AND OTHER TOP BURUNDI OFFICIALS. OF COURSE, THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT MICOMBERO WOULD BACK OUT OF HIS EARLIER PROMISE TO RECEIVE A SOUTH KOREAN, BUT NOTHING RISKED, NOTHING GAINED.

3. MIN SAID THAT SOUTH KOREA HAD HAD VARIOUS IN-CONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN 1963 AND 1966 WITH BURUNDI OFFICIALS DURING PERIOD OF ROYAL RULE, BUT NONE WITH REPUBLICAN REGIME WHICH HAD TAKEN OVER LATE IN 1966. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD URGE HIS CHIEF HERE TO SEND STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO SEOUL TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR NECESSARY STEPS IN BURUNDI AND RWANDA. HE WAS REMINDED THAT, IN VIEW OF SOMEWHAT GREATER ACTIVITY IN FRAMEWORK OF TRIPARTITE RWANDA-BURUNDI-ZAIRE MECHANISM, ZAIRE OFFICIALS MIGHT BE ABLE (IF WILLING) TO PROD BURUNDI AND RWANDA ON KOREAN QUESTION. KISSINGER

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